

## WHAT IS LUVILA?

Luvila can be said in modern context that, it is "Bakongo genealogy passcode". Why? Because in ancient Kongo kingdom whosoever was unable to pronounce their Luvila, was seen as a foreigner or even as an undercover(an intruder).

Before the beginning of any formal Bakongo traditional gathering(meetings)and festivities, such as presentation of a new born to the community(village), traditional wedding talks/negotiations, funeral, traditional magistrate court(Lúmbù) etc...People would introduce themselves obviously by their name, more importantly by stating their Luvila. Special attention was given about the details on the **Kanda** (mother's family lineage [Mitochondrial DNA]).

If you did not know your full Luvila (**Kanda** = mother's lineage; **Kise** = father's lineage), people would have assumed either you are a slave or was grafted to a family. A "graft" to a strange clan/family, worked like this: A person(a male = NSUMBU i.e. name given to the "purchased" person) that was bought and brought to a village, will be forced to marry a girl, then the groom will adopt the Kanda of his bride, thus ending the stigma of not belonging to any existing Kanda within Kongo kingdom . By no means we are saying that everyone called Nsumbu in our days may have been bought, No, No, No.